



CADET NOTES

Maxwell Air Force Base, AL



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C-130 "Hot Engine Trans-Load"

By C/Amn Kirstie Cihak

As a cadet member of the U.S. Civil Air Patrol there are numerous benefits and privileges. One of these privileges is orientation flights on USAF aircraft. Recently I had the privilege of flying on a C-130 with other members of my squadron. The C-130 flight was an awesome experience and here's the story of how the day went.

I had to wake up at 4:30am to get ready to leave my house at 5:00am. My dad, brother (Cadet SSgt Cihak) and I drove to Cadet Amn Dawkins house to car pool with he and his dad. By 5:45 a.m. we were on our way to the airport in Gadsden, Alabama.

Almost three hours later we arrived at the airport and joined up with seven other members of



Standing in front of a C-130, from left to right: Cadets Vician and K. Cihak, Maj. Cihak, SM R. Wueschner, Cadets Dawkins, Toney, T. Cihak, and Kyser, SM S. Wueschner, Cadets Wueschner and Jackson, Lt. Col. Gaston, and SM Jackson.

my squadron. We found out that the C-130 we were scheduled to fly on was going to drop parachutists before our flight. We listened in as the parachutists got their pre-jump safety and weather briefing. After the jumpers were briefed, the cadet squadrons were divided into flight chawks. Our squadron was designated as chalk one which meant we were the first cadet squadron to fly.

The plan was to have two sticks (groups) of static-line jumpers and one stick of High-Altitude Low-Opening (HALO) jumpers parachute out of the C-130 before we would fly. The HALO jumpers jumped out at 13,000 feet and opened their parachutes at 3,000 feet. They fell for about 60

seconds before opening their parachutes.

After all three sticks of jumpers were finished, the C-130 did what is called a "hot-engine trans-load." This means that after they landed they opened up the back end of the airplane with the engines running and we walked through the prop-wash to the ramp of the airplane. After we got aboard the airplane we took our seats, buckled up and waited for the takeoff.

After we took off and got to cruise altitude, the aircrew let us get out of our seats and walk around the aircraft. We were able to walk around for about ten minutes before we had to get

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from the desk of . . .

Lt. Col. Gaston

May 2005

Greetings, all! The school year is rapidly coming to a close and that means a lot of things, as far as CAP is concerned. Primary among these, as always, is SAFETY. The Air Force calls the period from Memorial Day to Labor Day the 100 CRITICAL DAYS of summer. That's because during this period, Air Force personnel experience by far the most injury- and death-causing incidents of any other period. That's because we're out of school, we're spending more time outdoors, and more time on the road. We go to the beach, the lake, the mountains, and any other number of places that are great to enjoy, but many also have more built-in hazards than our backyards. So, the point is keep your eyes open, your senses sharp, and take the time to enjoy these activities safely. That starts first and foremost with putting on your seatbelts every time you get in your car. Personal experience: my wife Barbara and I were driving literally around the corner from our house to move a load of bricks (more on that later). I signaled and began a right turn into the property where we were working, when a pick up behind us slammed on his brakes because he was starting to PASS US ON THE RIGHT! This was on a residential street! Fortunately he didn't hit us, and we did have our seatbelts on, but it could have been disastrous—and that was only a few doors from our house! So, please—buckle your seatbelts and make sure your parents do too!

Another thing summer means for CAP is national activities. Primary among these are summer encampments. Right now we've extended registration for the Alabama Wing Encampment, to be held in June at Ft. Rucker. Unfortunately, as of now, the numbers are such that this one may have to be cancelled. If that happens, I highly encourage those of you who planned to attend to try to go to one of the other encampments in the region. I guarantee you'll learn more about CAP during one week of encampment than you ever thought possible. Plus, encampments form the basis of your CAP training, and your attendance at one is required for other activities you may want to attend later. You also have to attend an encampment before you can get your Mitchell Award—something you ALL should be working for. In addition to encampments, national activities offer you a wide variety of things to do and see, from Air Force orientation weeks to powered and sailplane flight camps to more challenging activities such as National Emergency Services Academy (NESA). These and more offer you great opportunities to improve your skills and knowledge, so I really encourage you to participate in them.

Last thing I've been asked to talk about is my recent retirement from the Air Force and what I've been doing since. As most of you know, my retirement ceremony was March 18th, and Cadets Enriquez, Lohr, and both Cihaks served as the color guard. I can never thank them enough! Additionally, there were several senior members in attendance, and I greatly appreciate that. My last duty day was March 24th, and the following Monday, my wife and I began the process of moving a second house into our backyard. Not the normal, everyday chore, I assure you! Lesson learned: when you retire, make sure you have your second career lined up right away or your significant other may line one up for you! Moving the house entailed tearing down chimneys and cleaning the bricks for later use, removing carpet and sheetrock, pulling off siding and floor boards for later use, and, since we were only taking PART of the house, separating the part we wanted from the part we didn't. We did get professionals for that last part. The preparation took two weeks, then the movers came, shoved rails under the house, put wheels on, and then moved it around the corner to our property. Once they started moving it, it took about two hours, as they sure weren't trying to set any land speed records. That, and there were electrical, telephone, and cable TV lines to cope with. Pretty scary work. But they got it in place, and now we're starting work to turn it into a two-room guesthouse. Barbara wants to get it done by the end of the summer. So that's what I plan to do with MY summer—how about you?

Sincerely,

Lt. Col. Gaston

Lt. Col. Gaston

Senior Member Spotlight

Name:

Capt. Barry Spink

Hometown:

Arlington, VA

Family:

Wife, Christine; Son, Timothy (22)

Hobbies:

Military History (Civil War, WWII Re-enactor)

Why did you join CAP?

To have an activity with my son. We enjoyed six years together in this squadron. He went to college on an AFROTC scholarship and is now a second lieutenant Communications Officer at Dyess AFB, Tex.

How long were you in the Air Force and what did you do?

Twenty-two years—I was an Aircraft Electrician and Historian stationed in Korea, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and several bases stateside.

What do you do now?

I am the Aerospace Education Plans and Programs Manager, National Headquarters, Civil Air Patrol. I

coordinate and direct resources to ensure that national AE programs are produced and provided to CAP members.

What should cadets come to you for?

All personnel records issues such as promotions requirements, recorded activities, etc.

Why would you recommend CAP to a young person?

Because CAP cadets are equipped with tools for success that their peers are not. Cadets have the ability to think through a problem, coordinate various complex support items to bring an event to a successful conclusion, speak and write effectively, experience world-class activities, have the chance to travel to foreign countries to represent the U.S., and serve the community in the arena of search and rescue. All of this places cadets in a position ahead of other young adults to succeed and make their ambitions come true.

What other organization provides these opportunities and can teach you to fly up to the point of soloing? What other youth organization employees its members to actively save people's lives? The Civil Air Patrol is the only one that I know of!

CAMP OUT • CAMP OUT • CAMP OUT • CAMP OUT • CAMP OUT

Maxwell Composite Squadron
presents

Model Rocketry Launch - Orientation Flights

CAMP OUT

Friday-Saturday 20 & 21 May 2005

A sign up sheet will be given to each cadet. Please fill out the form and return it to the squadron by Monday, May 16, 2005. If you have not received the form, contact Lt Col Becker at 334-590-3556, or download the form at “www.knology.net/~lou/campout.doc”.

Cadet Spotlight

Name/Rank: C/SMSgt John Lohr

School/Grade: Loveless Academic Magnet H.S. (LAMP)/9th Grade

Family: *Dad* – John; *Mother* – Sue; *Sister* – Samantha; *Dog* – Blaise

Hobbies: running, sailing, trumpet, guitar, Tae Kwon Do, surfing, snowboarding, skateboarding, golf, model United Nations

Why did you join CAP?
I joined CAP for many reasons. One reason is that I love the military and this gets me closer to it. Another reason is that it will help me get into the Air Force Academy. The last reason is that I wanted something in my life that can shape me and give me values and standards to live by, which gives my life support and purpose, and those are the reasons I joined CAP.

What do you enjoy most about CAP?
The things that I most enjoy in CAP are the FTX's and the Color Guard. The FTX's are just a blast. All the search and rescue training and Col. Gaston singing, it is just one of the greatest experiences you will have. The Color Guard is exciting, presenting our nations colors to the people. It makes you feel proud.

What do you want to be/do when you grow up?
When I grow up, I would like to be in the United States Air Force. I am still debating if I would like to become a Pilot or a Civil Engineer after my father.

How do you think CAP can help you in your future career choice?
I believe that CAP can help me tremendously in my future career choice. First, it can be added to my resume for the Academy. All the leadership skills can give me a boost. Another way is that it can get me acquainted with the military life.

Why would you recommend CAP to a friend?
I would recommend CAP to a friend because it is a life changing experience. You can make friends; learn values, etiquette, and other valuable skills necessary in the game of life.

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ready to land. While we were getting buckled back into our seats, one of the crew members asked (yelled), "is your dad active duty in the Air Force?" I said, "yes, sir." Then he said, "the navigator would like you and your brother to sit up front with him for the landing." I was shocked! I quickly unbuckled my seatbelt, grabbed my brother and headed up to the flight-deck (front of the airplane.) We got there and the navigator said, "I know your dad." I thought, well I'm glad that you know him otherwise I wouldn't be sitting here now! We got buckled in and I noticed that there were four or five people operating the airplane. I thought, wow, this must be a complicated matter if it takes that many people to operate an airplane this size. After we landed, we did another hot-engine transfer for the second chalk.

After we got off the airplane we said our goodbyes and started for home. The flight only lasted about twenty minutes and was an awesome experience. I had a blast! I highly recommend you put your name on the next list to go flying. I promise it will be the best time of your life!

UPCOMING EVENTS	
May	
7	Prattville Open House-Fly In (10 a.m. - 3 p.m)
20 - 21	Rocketry and O-Rides Campout (see insert)
June	
TBD	Glider Flight Orientation
19-25	Alabama Wing Summer Encampment Ft. Rucker, Ala.
July	
TBD	Glider Flight Orientation

Monday Night Meetings		
1st Mon.	Emergency Services & Testing	(BDU)
2nd Mon.	Physical Training	(PT gear)
3rd Mon.	Aerospace Education & Testing	(Blues)
4th Mon.	Moral Leadership	(Blues)
5th Mon.	Commander's Discretion	(BDU)
Summer Encampment June 19-25, 2005		